Establishment of more colleges for technical courses

3855. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the AICTE is encouraging the establishment of more colleges having technical courses and degrees like B, Pharmacy in the country;

(b) the extent to which the AICTE simplified such processes so as to enable our youth in distant areas and rural areas to have easy access to such courses;

(c) whether the AICTE is taking any steps to give preferential treatment in clearing and processing applications from small towns and rural areas; and

(d) the number of applications pending as on date from various colleges in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for B. Pharmacy degree courses and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The AICTE is promoting balanced technical development in all disciplines including B, Pharmacy. However, there is an increasing trend for starting new Institutes for Pharmacy discipline.

The procedures for submitting applications for start of new Institutions has been simplified with the introduction of "round the year applications". The Council, through the Approval Process Handbook, has specified the time limits and the responsibilities of processing at each stage to ensure a time bound and transparent handling process. The AICTE is seeking the views of the concerned State Governments and the affiliating Universities without insisting on 'No Objection Certificate'. The approval processes have been made known to all prospective applicants through the web site of the AICTE and have an inbuilt opportunity for appeal. The Council does not have any policy for preferential treatment from locational point of view and handles all applications for new Colleges on the basis of merits wherein the specified Norms and Standards of the Council are enforced equally.

(b) The details of applications under process for setting up new Pharmacy Colleges are as follows:

State	Applications under consideration
Tamil Nadu	03
Karnataka	03
Andhra Pradesh	15

Encouraging the sports

3856. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission has any schemes to encourage sports in various institutions all over the country;

(b) if so, the details of any specific UGC scheme to encourage sports in eduational institutions;

(c) whether there are any scholarships offered to students by the UGC;

(d) the manner in which the UGC evolves new schemes and incentives to ensure that students in universities give importance to physical educational and sports, etc; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has been implementing a scheme entitled "Organisation of adventure sports/activities in universities and Colleges" to encourage sports in universities/colleges. The objective of the scheme is to create and foster amongst the students of universities/colleges a spirit of risk-taking, co-operative team work, the capacity to face and effectively deal with challenging situations with courage and determination, so that young students might get an opportunity to avail themselves of adventure sports facility and also to serve the first generation learners and young students, both in urban and rural areas. A University is eligible to choose two events/ programmes while a college may choose one event/programme per